

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CE-71

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Wallace-Carter Mills

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER Along the south side of a bend in Kirks Road, one mile south of  
Providence.

CITY, TOWN

Providence

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Cecil

CODE

015

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☒ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
PUBLIC ACQUISITION  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
ACCESSIBLE  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☒ OTHER: none**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple owners, see Continuation Sheet #1

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE  
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wallace-Carter Mills ruins are located along the Little Elk Creek, just south of Providence, Maryland. The creek serves as the southern and eastern borders of the property, while Kirk Road runs along the north and east sides. The terrain is very irregular and steeply sloped in some areas.

The ruins consist of ten designated sites, eight of which are remains of earlier buildings. They are as follows: foundation remains of the Wallace Mill, Carter Mill walls, drying shed, workers' residence, office building, barn, corn crib, and wagon shed. Each structure is in a varying degree of decay.

The earliest ruin is the Wallace Mill (CE-71B), which is barely above ground. The foundation is approximately thirty-five by fifty feet of uncoursed fieldstone. The west wall does have a single stone arch with keystone support remaining. The Carter Mill (CE-71A) is a more substantial ruinous structure. The 2½ story mill building is L-shaped in plan. The leg of the L is approximately 30' x 80' and runs north/south, while the section is 40' x 45' and runs east/west. According to local historians, the mill burned in 1900; all that remains of the frame and stone building is the exterior walls and some interior supports. The stonework does have cut quoins and long pieces of stone were used above door and window openings. Mortised and tenoned window surrounds are still intact in many of the openings. The drying shed (CE-71C) located south and to the east of the mill was 9 bays by 3 bays and approximately 30' x 90'. This single story structure has a north/south orientation and is built of uncoursed fieldstone. The window and door treatments, however, differ since brick arches replaced the usual rectangular openings. This structure consists of two rooms, one approximately 30' x 30' and the other 30' x 60'. There are interior stretcher bond brick supports for machinery in the larger section. The office building (CE-71D) was a 2½-story, 3 bay by 1 bay structure of about 15' x 20'. It is constructed of uncoursed fieldstone; the windows have header brick lintels and a few openings retain the plain surrounds. The gable end has two small windows which flank the stretcher bond chimney stack. Located north and west of the office are the ruins of one of the workers' residences (CE-71E). Two walls (3 bays by 2 bays) are what remain of the larger structure that measured approximately 40' x 80'. There were a medium-pitched gable roof and stretcher bond brick chimneys. Two attic windows flank the chimney stack in the south gable end. Some farm buildings are found north of the mill complex. The uncoursed stone corner to a barn still exists. The wall measures about two feet thick and the corner that remains is about twenty feet in both directions. A corn crib and wagon shed (CE-71F and 71G) are located west of the barn ruin and measure 25' x 25' and 20' x 15' respectively. Due to the thick undergrowth, a foundation was not visible but assumed to be of like materials. Other features of the complex are a brick-lined well located just east of the workers' residence and the old raceway for the Carter Mill (CE-71J and CE-71I, respectively).

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wallace-Carter Mills site is an extremely significant paper mill ruin on the Little Elk Creek south of Providence, Maryland. The ruin possesses both County and State importance in its relation to the paper making industry in Maryland. Paper-making was primarily located in the northern parts of the State since there was a need for an abundant supply of fresh water.<sup>1</sup> In 1885, there were 24 papermaking ventures in Maryland; six of these were in Cecil County,<sup>2</sup> thus substantiating Cecil County as an important supplier of paper products.

Carter activated the mill around 1815 and expanded the operations to the point where the output was second only to Samuel and William Meeter's mill, located further north on the Little Elk Creek. The Meeter Mill was extensively destroyed by fire in the early 20th century. Historical associations with the Wallace-Carter Mill site, however, date before Carter's purchase in the early 19th century.

In 1831 he deeded property at Cherry Hill for the Methodist Church building and graveyard. In 1820 he gave a corner of his Walnut Hill farm, known as Carter's Bank, for a schoolhouse. For a short time, he owned Cecil County's first newspaper, The Elkton Press.

In 1851 Carter sold the mill to his son, Israel Day Carter, for \$4000. The drying shed was built in 1863 to handle the anticipated increase in production which was soon realized in the post-Civil War period. Paper was sold to businesses in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Boston. Israel Day Carter ran the mill until 1888. The highlight of his ownership was the production of paper for the Baltimore Sun for twenty years.

Robert D. Carter took over the operation until 1896, when Charles L. Carter and George McQuilkin formed a company. During this period paper was supplied to the Philadelphia Public Ledger. The mill also produced paper for books and the construction and music businesses. The mill complex burned around the turn of the century and was never rebuilt.

The mill complex ruins are incorporated in the proposal for a park in the area, for which they would serve as a historical focus. Under this proposal, the Cecil County Commissioners would take title to the property in this nomination.

<sup>1</sup>Hunter, Dard, Paper Making in Pioneer America. University of Pennsylvania Press. 1952, p. 10.

<sup>2</sup>The Paper Mill Directory of the World. Holyoke, Mass. and New York City, U.S.A. Clark W. Bryan & Co. Publishers, 1885, pp.26-28.

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Wallace-Carter Mills

Cecil County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

4

PAGE

1

OWNER OF PROPERTY

- 1) Mary J. Barnett  
RD 5, Box 82  
Elkton, Maryland 21921
- 2) Anthony Sposato  
Manchester Park  
Elkton, Maryland 21921  
(301) 398-6540
- 3) James and Doris Vargo  
69 Kells Avenue  
Newark, Delaware 19711
- 4) Horace R. Eason  
RD 3, Box 440  
Elkton, Maryland 21921  
(301) 398-2521

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Cecil County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REGERENCES

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Cecil County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

**VERBAL COUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning on the northwest corner of Horace Eason's property and following Kirks Road east for about 1,350' to the mutual corner of Mary Barnett's and Judith Bristow's properties and following that border in a northeasterly direction 150' to the old B & O Railroad bed, thence in a northwesterly direction 1,125' to the northwest corner of the property owned by Century Development, thence northeasterly 125' to the middle of the Little Elk Creek, following the said creek in a southeasterly direction for about 1,200', thence in a southern direction for another 1,200' following the course of said creek, thence due west along the creek for about 900', thence in a southern direction along said creek for 300' the southeast corner of Horace Eason's property along the Little Elk Creek thence due west along the Eason property 150', thence due north 375' to the place of beginning and containing about 30 acres.

Easement

0800715314

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Cecil TOWN Providence VICINITY STREET NO.  ORIGINAL OWNER ----- ORIGINAL USE Paper Mill PRESENT OWNER - Harry Mueller + Robt. L. Jackson PRESENT USE Ruins WALL CONSTRUCTION Fieldstone + log NO. OF STORIES -----	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY CE-71  2. NAME Carter's Paper Mill  DATE OR PERIOD c. 1820 and later STYLE Industrial architecture ARCHITECT BUILDER  3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO  <p>This is a collection of ruins of a paper mill, now overgrown and wild. There are waterchutes, ramps, and a mill race. There is one large eight bay building with an A-roof. The first storey is fieldstone while the second is chinked log. There are many large fireplaces inside. Another building in ruins appears to have been a drying barn. It has a datestone - 1868. There are stone ramps for loading wagons and windows covered with fixed wooden louvers. There are ruins of a small three bay wide 2 <del>storey</del> storey structure, probably a house. There are ruins, in very poor condition, of a large 10 bay square, 3 or 4 storey high building, with two basement levels. The building is roughly L-shaped and has many huge beams, probably used to support large machines. There is a large, eleven bay long three bay wide ruin of stone. It probably had an A-roof. There are huge round-arched window openings lined with brick stretchers. These openings give the building a very romantic appearance, like a ruined cathedral.</p> <p>IN addition to these major ruins, there are fragments of many</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior  smaller stone and log buildings in the area. The factory went out of business in 1901 and burned in that year. Its ruins should be preserved for their architectural merit and as a monument to one of the first industrial enterprises in the area.  This mill supplied the paper for one of the Philadelphia newspapers.	6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 1-bxw neg 1-bxw neg & contact (Roll 189) 7. PHOTOGRAPH 2167-8
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  Paul Alan Brinkman December 19 1967  DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

The preservation and partial restoration of Carter's Mill could be the key to the implementation and the development of a historic district in the Little Elk Creek Valley. Carter's Mill is important due to the influence of the Carter Family during the 19th century and because this particular site is the largest and most unaltered in the "valley". Saving this milling area would also serve as the center attraction in the proposed historic district due to its location.

The following plan represents a preliminary study to evaluate the priorities and needs of completing the goals of restoration and preservation by interested parties in Cecil County.

#### Stage I

##### Ownership

- 1) Present ownership is acceptable and participates in preservation efforts.
- 2) Local preservation group or interest group obtains ownership.
- 3) State obtains ownership.

#### Stage II

##### Clearing

- 1) Area to include areas around and between buildings 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
  - a. underbrush should be removed especially vines.
  - b. no large trees to be removed unless endangering one of the buildings.
  - c. trim dead wood from trees.
- 2) Do not disturb topsoil.
- 3) DO not remove stones or bricks.
- 4) Have complete drawings made at this time and hire an architect to evaluate structure of existing buildings.

#### Stage III

##### Stabilization



The history of Carter's Mill can be traced to the early land grant of Abram Hollingsworth who was granted the land in 1713. The Hollingsworth Patent as it was called was broken apart through the years. In the late 18th century the Wallace Family headed by Thomas Wallace purchased numerous properties in the Little Elk Valley. As early as 1758 he is mentioned in a business transaction and in 1774 some land was bought from Robert Macky which included a mill dam.

In 1778 Thomas Wallace swore the Oath of Allegiance to the young republic and before the end of the Revolutionary War Thomas Wallace is called a miller in a business transaction. The War of 1812 again caused Thomas Wallace to take some action and in May of 1813 he spent 19 days attending to Fort Defiance.

Upon the death of Thomas Wallace his son Michael became the main heir to an estate that included houses, mills, and other improvements. The following year Robert Carter bought two parcels of land from Michael Wallace one sold for \$4,066 and the other \$500. This land included tracts named Snow Hill, Providence, Goodwill, and South Milford One Hundred.

Certainly during the early ownership of these properties by Robert Carter the mill was revamped to serve the papermaking industry. The processes used at first were basically machineless, but technological advances caused this to change. The Carters were one of the first paper manufacturers in the country to use machines in the paper making industry. The labor for this mill might have been supplied by slaves, but if so they were few in number. The Carter Family did have house servants.

From the initial purchase date of 1814 until 1851 there is little written about the mill. But the Carters bought other mills in the area. The most notable were the Cecil Manufacturing Company in 1828 and the Marley Mill in 1842. In 1851 Robert Carter sold the mill to his son

Israel D. Carter for \$4,000. Also in this year a suit was brought to court to test water rights inconjunction with the mill dam 1¢ damage was awarded and the case was appealed. The drying shed was built during this period and has a datestone of 1863.

The post Civil War Era was the most prosperous for Carter's Mill(s) or the Cecil Paper Mill as it was called. Paper was sold to businesses in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, and Boston. Israel Carter ran the mill until 1888 when Robert D. Carter took over as head of the operation. The highlight of I.D. Carter's tenure was the production of all the paper for the Baltimore Sun for 20 years.

Robert D. Carter, a physician, was better known for his work at the Alms House, but he ran the mill up to 1896 when Charles L. Carter and George Mc Qilkin formed a company. During the period paper was supplied for the Philadelphia Public Ledger. In December of 1900 the mill was burnt and not rebuilt.

The mill had a water wheel that was 20' in diameter and had a 12' face. It was the largest overshot wheel in the county. The mill produced about 60 tons of binder boards a month. The mill also made paper for books, the news media, the construction business, and the music business.

At the present time the mill is in ruins. There are approximately 8 buildings in various states of disrepair. In 1967 some log ruins were still visible. Loading ramps, a mill race, a dam and bridge supports still remain. The arched window openings in one of the buildings gives the appearance of a ruined cathedral.

The existing ruins should be stabilized due to their architectural merit and as a testimony to early American industry. Inorder to gather more evidence about the mill an archaeological dig should be conducted.

# Preservation Easement Report

## Wallace-Carter Mill

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**Easement Name:** Wallace-Carter Mill

**Date Recorded:** 11/23/1983

**Other Name(s):** Carter's Paper Mill

**Expired** **Acres** 24.47 **Digitized** Yes **Number of polygons** 1

**Museum** **Boat** **Maryland Environmental Trust Easement**

**Comment**

**USGS Quadrangle(s):** Newark West

### Inventory Properties Associated with this Easement:

CE-71	Carter's Paper Mill (Wallace-Carter Mill)	Kirk Road	Cherry Hill
-------	---	-----------	-------------

**Easement Address:**

Red. stands over 3' in height

CE-71

DAM

Bridge Support

House + Cellar Foundation Corn Crib

Barn

Workers Double House

Mill

Well

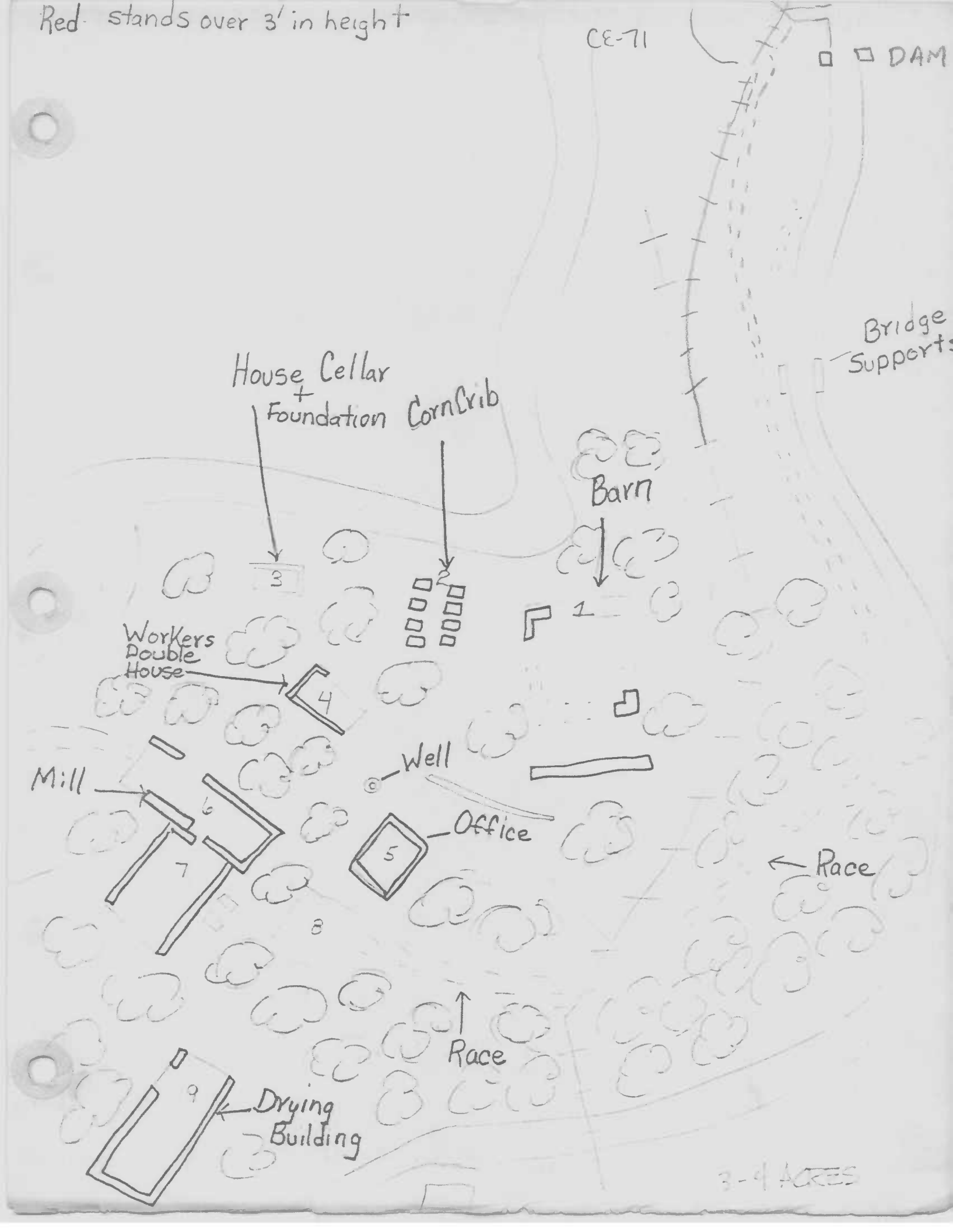
Office

Race

Race

Drying Building

3-4 ACRES



CE-71

Wallace-Carter Mill (Carter's Paper Mill)

Easement Boundary

Newark West Quadrangle





CE-~~Q~~ 71

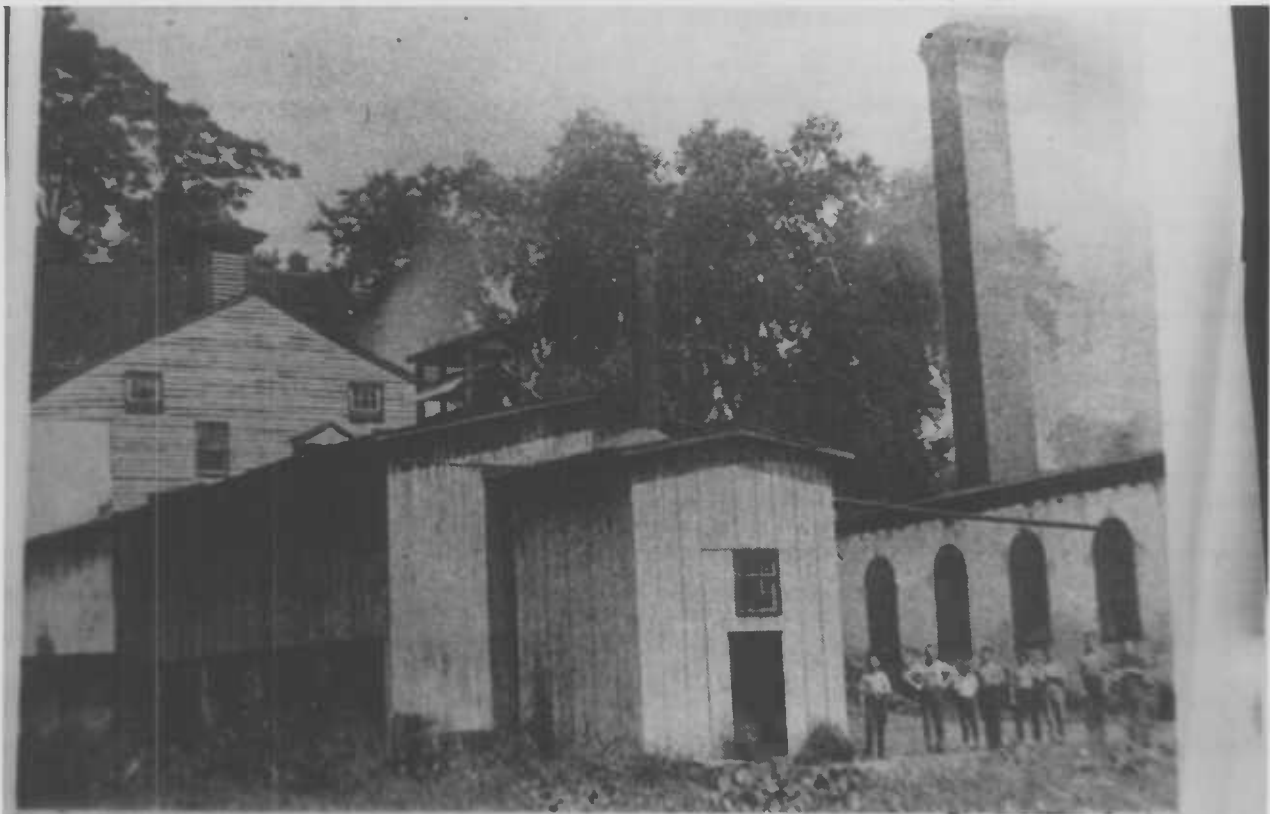
CARTER'S MILL

OLD PITOTO LOOKING SE

COPIED BY BETH KRAVITZ

FALL 1979

NEG. / M.D. INST  
TRUST



Now the subject of literary research and an archaeological dig, the Carter Paper Mill was once an active industry employing about 30 people. This picture, copied from a post card belonging to a Cecil County family, is believed to have been taken just before the turn of the century.



Carter Paper Mill

CE - 71

Cecil Whig Photograph

Copied by Beth Kravitz - 1979

NEG - MD. Hist. Trust



CARTER'S MILL

CE - ~~71~~ <sup>71</sup> A

PROVIDENCE, MD.

WEST ELEVATION OF DRYING SHED

PBT

7/78

NEG. / MHT



CE-71

Wallace-Carter Mill



CE-71

Wallace Carter Mills





CE-71

Wallace-Carter Mills



CE-71

Wallace-Carter Mills

82



Carter's Paper Mill CE-71



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Wallace - Carter Mills



CE 71

Wallace-Carter Mills



Wallace-Carter Hill

CE-71



CE-71

Wallace-Carter Mills







CE-71

Wallace-Carter Mills



CE-71

Wallace - Carter Mills



Carter's Paper Mill CE-71